

# The Lithopolis Link

**DECEMBER 2011**

*Traditional Worship Service - 9:00 AM*

*Sunday School - 10:10 - 10:55 AM*

*Contemporary Worship Service - 11:00 AM*

## **The Journey to Christmas Sermon Series**

**Dec. 4 – Zechariah’s Journey**

**Dec. 11 – Mary’s Journey**

**Dec. 18 – Joseph’s Journey**

**Dec. 24 – The Shepherd’s Journey**

**Dec. 25 – Jesus’ Journey**



### **Christmas Eve Service Times**

6:00 p.m. – Contemporary (Bill Weaver)

8:00 p.m. – Traditional (Pastor Russ Tichenor)

11:00 p.m. – Communion (Pastor Russ Tichenor)



## The Gift of Christmas

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*Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.*

Luke 2:11

The other day Michelle and I were talking about the presents that we used to receive for Christmas when we were children. My memories of Christmas morning included bicycles, radios, electric race car tracks, and many other toys and games. For Michelle, however, the gifts she received were limited due to her family's tight budget. Her memories seemed to focus less on the gifts and more on the kindness that she had received during the Christmas season.

Every year, Santa Claus would show up at her school and make his way through the classrooms where he would hand out stockings with oranges, apples, nuts, and a candy canes. She experienced a similar kindness at her church, where each year the children would be involved in some type of Christmas happening that would culminate in a gift of a brown paper bag filled with fruit, nuts and some assorted candies.

As Michelle described her simple gifts, her descriptions were laced with exceeding warmth and tenderness, a quality that was noticeably missing from my descriptions. It was easy to see that in the midst of her limited resources, God had more than met all her needs.

In life, we often find ourselves with limited resources. Sometimes it has to do with a lack of financial resources, but often it has to do with other things, such as the lack of affirmation, or encouragement, or friendship. Sometimes our limited resources stem from the loss of a loved one. When it comes right down to it, there are many reasons that our resources can be found limited and wanting.

But the "Good News" of Christmas is that God meets each of us in our place of need. We serve a God that refuses to stay on the sidelines, but rather through the birth of Christ enters each of our lives thereby claiming the name, Emmanuel, "God with us."

This Christmas, I pray that you will open your heart to the Christ child, allowing him to search out the areas of your life which are found to be "limited and wanting." For the gift of Christmas is a Savior who has been "born to you" and one that God promises will "meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

Peace and Joy,  
Pastor Russ

# SCHEDULES FOR DECEMBER 2011

	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 25 (10:00 AM) Special Service Time	January 1
<b>Acolytes 9am</b>	Zack Warner Ben Warner	Hayden Swartz Carmichael Snider	Stewart Stebelton Eli Rickly	Hayden Swartz Tanner Swartz	Nick Tiell
<b>Altar Flowers</b>	<i>Available</i>	<i>Available</i>	Poinsettias	Carol Black	
<b>Good Shepherd 9am</b>	David Plummer	Sandi Ritchey	Linda Milless	No 9AM Service	George Tootle
<b>Good Shepherd 10am</b>	Carl Spencer	Amy Mayne	Ann Dean	Debbie McKinney	Gene Sprang
<b>Good Shepherd 11am</b>	Bob Tennant	Carl Spencer	Muriel Beers	No 11AM Service	Dick Wolfe
<b>Greeters</b>	Randy & Marlys Fergus	Marlo & Bonnie Mills	Steve & Gail Murry	Bruce & Bunny Palmer	TBD
<b>Kids Church 9am Age 4 – Grade 5</b>	Andy & Sandy Stakely	Donna Davis	Amy Mayne	No Kid's Church	No Kid's Church
<b>Kids Church 11am Age 4 – Grade 1</b>	Cathy Burden	Mary Childress	Matt & Amy Bratton	No Kid's Church	No Kid's Church
<b>Kids Church 11am Grades 2 – 5</b>	Don Sutton	Monica Snyder	Jennifer Loeffler	No Kid's Church	No Kid's Church
<b>Nursery 9am</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	No 9AM Service	TBD
<b>Nursery 10am</b>	Amy Mayne	TBD	TBD	Open but not staffed	TBD
<b>Nursery 11am</b>	Tarah Morris	Lauren Sommers Melissa Sommers Jacob Beers	Valerie Hertlein	No 11AM Service	TBD



USHER SCHEDULE

December Ushers (9AM) – Bruce Palmer, Charles Kennedy, Steve Murry, Michael Whetstone  
December Ushers (11AM) – Bob Jones, Larry Kahle, Dick Wolfe

December Bell Ringer: The Mattei Family



NURSERY WORKERS

Lisa Stebelton and Gehni Wilson are our regular Nursery Attendants in our nursery and rotate Sundays. If you can volunteer to assist in the nursery during one of the worship / Christian Education hours, please contact Jan Jones at [bjmj2006@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjmj2006@sbcglobal.net)

## GOD'S GANG

CALLING ALL KIDS IN GRADES 3—5  
GOD'S GANG IS JUST FOR YOU  
BRING YOUR FRIENDS,  
COUSINS, NEIGHBORS  
FOR FUN, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP!!!

DECEMBER 4  
12:15–1:45 PM  
in the MMC



# LIFE EVENTS

## CONDOLENCES

### John 14:1-2

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

### Love and Prayer to those who have lost family members –

Bobby Mings, step-father of Michelle Tichenor  
Margaret Brigner, grandmother of Randy Somers  
Frank McKinney, father-in-law of Deb McKinney  
Edna Wilson, member of LUMC

## THANK YOU

*Lithopolis UMC - Thank you so much for the beautiful plant and all the prayers.  
Pastor Russ & Michelle Tichenor*



*Dear Church Friends – Thank you so much to all who work in the church office. You assist me with everything I need – information of all kinds that I need over the phone, etc. You always have the answer or you return my calls!! It is a nice feeling to have that connection especially if you cannot attend church.  
Thanks from Jeep & Sue Stebelton*

*Dear Pastor Russ and the members of Lithopolis UMC – Just a quick note to say a big thanks to all of you for hosting our recent community Thanksgiving service. It was such a delight to be in your midst and to share the joy of worship that spans across our various denominational traditions. I have to believe that such worship makes God smile. For your hospitality, energy, and graciousness we thank you so very much!  
Shalom, Pastor Dave Long-Higgins (on behalf of the CWLMA)*



### INTRODUCING . . . LINDA BRATTON

**You have probably begun to see Linda working in our nursery on Sunday mornings from 8:30AM – 12:30PM. She will be the weekly face that our children and parents see in the nursery.**

**What Linda would like for you to know about her:  
*Hi! My name is Linda Bratton. I currently work at Nationwide Children's Hospital Child Care Center. I enjoy working with children to teach them new things. My hobbies are reading and anything outdoors. I look forward to meeting everyone!***

# LUMC Student Ministry December Newsletter

## Amplify

High School Student Ministry

High School Big Group Time  
Sundays 4:30-6pm

Meet at LUMC

Open to 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades

No Series This Month

\*Not Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, or 25<sup>th</sup>\*



High School Life Group  
Mondays 7-8:30pm

Meet at the Barnes' House

Open to 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades

We are doing a topic study

\*Not Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>\*



## iConnect

Middle School Student Ministry

Middle School Big Group Time  
Wednesdays 7-8:30pm

Meet at the MMC

Open to 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades

The Series is "On The Lot"

\*Not Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>\*



**\*Open Gym Game Time\***  
7-10:30pm  
January 13<sup>th</sup>

**Youth Christmas Party**  
Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> in the MMC  
from 5:30-7:30pm

Open to ALL YOUTH!

Dinner will be provided!

Bring as silly or serious gift as you  
want for the gift exchange (no more  
than \$5)



Columbus Zoo Wildlights

Saturday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>

Meet at LUMC at 4pm

We'll be back at LUMC at 11pm

Open to ALL YOUTH!

Cost is \$14 per ticket

Bring extra \$ for dinner at the zoo

### Church-Wide Christmas Dinner/Singing

Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

Dinner begins at 5:30pm

We will sing carols and have

hot chocolate afterwards



### Youth New Year's Eve-Overnighter

Friday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> 8pm - Saturday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> 8am

Open to ALL YOUTH!

Meet in the MMC

Bring \$10 for pizza and drinks

Time of dodgeball, basketball, video games,  
movies, and hanging-out all night!

### Acquire the Fire



Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> in Muncie, IN

Meet at LUMC at 12:30pm, we will be back at 1pm

(you will need to leave school early)

Open to ALL YOUTH!

Cost is \$45

Need to pack clothes, toiletries, sleeping bag/pillow

AND money for 5 fast food meals

Contact Bill Weaver

[bill@lithopolisumc.org](mailto:bill@lithopolisumc.org)

614-551-5291

# LUMC CALENDAR – December 2011

Please note: Calendar event info often changes. Please see the website for current information.

<p>9:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Kids Church 10:00am Christian Education 11:00am Contemporary Worship 11:15am Kids Church</p>	<p>28 6:00pm Upward Basketball Practice 6:00pm Pack Meeting - Pack 241 6:30pm Tole Painting 7:00pm High School Life Group</p>	<p>29 4:00pm FCA Basketball Practice 8:00pm Adult Basketball</p>	<p>30 9:30am Mom's Day Out - Wednesday 11:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinners 6:30pm Little Lights Choir 6:45pm Tech Team Meeting 7:00pm Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm iConnect Middle School Youth</p>	<p>1 9:30am Thursday Morning Bible Study 5:30pm BC Basketball Rec League 6:30pm Music Team Practice 6:30pm Music Team Singers 7:00pm Volleyball - Adult</p>	<p>2 Pastor Russ - out of office</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 Communion Sunday 9:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Kids Church 10:00am Christian Education 10:00am Blood Pressure Screenings 11:00am Contemporary Worship 11:15am Kids Church 12:00pm Blood Pressure Screenings 12:15pm God's Gang 2:00pm Trustee Christmas Dinner 4:30pm Amplify - High School Youth</p>	<p>5 6:00pm Upward Basketball Practice 6:30pm Cub Scouts Tiger Den 3 6:30pm Bear Den 1 Scout Meeting 7:00pm High School Life Group 7:00pm Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>6 1:30pm Dorcas Circle 4:00pm FCA Basketball Practice 8:00pm Adult Basketball</p>	<p>7 9:30am Mom's Day Out - Wednesday 11:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Little Lights Choir 7:00pm Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm iConnect Middle School Youth</p>	<p>8 9:30am Thursday Morning Bible Study 5:30pm BC Basketball Rec League 6:30pm Music Team Practice 6:30pm Music Team Singers 7:00pm Volleyball - Adult</p>	<p>9 Pastor Russ - out of office</p>	<p>10 8:00am Upward Basketball Games 6:00pm Staff Dinner</p>
<p>11 9:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Kids Church 10:00am Christian Education 11:00am Contemporary Worship 11:15am Kids Church 5:30pm Youth Christmas Party</p>	<p>12 6:00pm Upward Basketball Practice 6:30pm Wolfe Den Scout Meeting 6:30pm Cub Scouts Tiger Den 3 6:30pm Bear Den 1 Scout Meeting 7:00pm Joy Circle 7:00pm High School Life Group</p>	<p>13 10:00am CWL Ministerial Association 4:00pm FCA Basketball Practice 7:00pm Finance Committee 8:00pm Adult Basketball</p>	<p>14 9:30am Mom's Day Out - Wednesday 11:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Little Lights Choir 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack Committee Meeting 7:00pm Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm iConnect Middle School Youth</p>	<p>15 9:30am Thursday Morning Bible Study 5:30pm BC Basketball Rec League 6:30pm Music Team Practice 6:30pm Music Team Singers 7:00pm Volleyball - Adult</p>	<p>16 Pastor Russ - out of office</p>	<p>17 4:00pm Youth Outing - Columbus Zoo</p>
<p>18 7:30am UM Men's Breakfast 9:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Kids Church 10:00am Christian Education 11:00am Contemporary Worship 11:15am Kids Church</p>	<p>19 6:00pm Pack Meeting - Pack 241 7:00pm High School Life Group 7:00pm Shalom Circle</p>	<p>20 4:00pm FCA Basketball Practice 7:00pm Adult Basketball</p>	<p>21 9:30am Mom's Day Out - Wednesday 11:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinners</p>	<p>22 9:30am Thursday Morning Bible Study 5:30pm BC Basketball Rec League 6:30pm Music Team Practice 6:30pm Music Team Singers 7:00pm Volleyball - Adult</p>	<p>23 Pastor Russ - out of office</p>	<p>24 6:00pm Contemporary Christmas Eve Service 8:00pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service 11:00pm Communion Christmas Eve Service</p>
<p>25 Christmas Day 9:15am Kids Church 10:00am Special Christmas Day Worship Service 11:15am Kids Church</p>	<p>26 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>27 4:00pm FCA Basketball Practice 7:00pm Adult Basketball</p>	<p>28 9:30am Mom's Day Out 11:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Adult Choir Practice</p>	<p>29 9:30am Thursday Morning Bible Study 5:30pm BC Basketball Rec League 6:30pm Music Team Practice 6:30pm Music Team Singers 7:00pm Volleyball - Adult</p>	<p>30 Pastor Russ - out of office 8:00pm Youth New Years Eve Eve Overnighter</p>	<p>31</p>

**Mom's Day Out  
Newsletter  
December 2011-12**



Greetings Parents,

What a wonderful month December is. It is the month we celebrate our Lord and Savior's birth. Unfortunately, there seems like there is always so much to do: the decorating, gift buying, card writing, cookie baking, the parties and programs to attend, etc. This month can really be exhausting if we let it. Please pause! God does not care about those things. Seek him each and everyday. May you not lose sight of the meaning of Christmas!

We began last week by giving the children an advent wreath and teaching them the meaning of the candles. This is a good way for the children to countdown with their family the weeks until our Savior's birth. We also began our focus on a symbol of Christmas to guide us with our songs, stories and crafts. Last week our focus was on Christmas trees and how they can point people to Christ.

This week our focus will be on the candy cane. The children will see how we can learn about Christ by considering the shape, color, hardness and smell of a candy cane.

Our last class, December 16, we will focus on the significance of Christ's birth. This birth was the greatest gift ever given to us.

Mark your calendar for Friday and Saturday December 2nd and 3rd to attend the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Walk at the Lancaster Campground, 2151 West Fair Ave. in Lancaster. There is a walking tour of the decorated cottages, a live nativity scene and a gift shop. The event begins at 5:00 P.M. each evening.

(<http://www.lancastercampground.com>)

*For unto us a child is born, a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The ever-lasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

We wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

In Christ's Love,  
Cheri Schaffner, Pam Schilling, Rita Hanna and Mary West



## Healthy Thoughts for December By Pam Sprang R.N. Parish Nurse

**“Peace and prosperity to you, your family, and everything you own!” 1 Samuel 25:6, NLT**  
Holiday Blues/Stress:

Are you over booked for this month? Do you look at your schedule and start to panic? How can you possibly do everything? There are meetings, birthdays, gifts, decorating, parties and too many other things, not including work, family and church.

Do all things in moderation. Too many activities even if they're usually fun can culminate in too much stress, leaving us frazzled rather than fulfilled. It is time to trim your list instead of your tree. Consider fewer gifts, fewer decorations and not so many parties. Find quiet time to spend with devotional materials and in prayer. The only way to get to the heart of Christmas is with Jesus. All the other things are fine, but they aren't necessary.

**“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” Mathew 5:4, NIV**

The holiday season can be a mixture of feelings, especially if you are grieving the loss of a loved one. Celebrations take on a different meaning as you work through the many emotions of grief. Do you attend every party you are invited to? Do you decorate your home the same way as before the death? Do you maintain family traditions or create new ones? Do you find new ways to include the deceased such as donating gifts in his/her name? Whether the loss is recent or old, you have to determine what kind of celebration and remembrance is right for you. Tackling the holidays after a loss is a work in progress. Make changes that feel right for you and honors those you have lost.

**“Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.”**

The holidays are supposed to be joyful so people who experience great sadness and depression often will not share their true feelings with others. Those who might have the holiday blues include parents whose children no longer live at home, those who suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).seniors who are widowed or have lost many of their friends, and any person who is separated from family and friends. These losses and separations take the joy out of their holidays. To give them back some enjoyment, include them in your activities if possible, encourage them to get involved in church, and acknowledge their feelings and losses. One excellent way to feel less stressed is to help those who are less fortunate- you'll be part of something much larger than yourself, immersing yourself in the true spirit of the holiday. Remember to support them when those who are blue, pray for them and with them.

Give yourself the gift of peace in the midst of a world in chaos. Have a great holiday and share your peace with those around you.

Pam

## Confirmation Classes Starting in January



The confirmation process in the United Methodist Church is a time that students can make a decision to respond to God's grace with a personal and public commitment to Jesus Christ. Through this process each student gains a deeper understanding of the Christian faith, the history and teachings and The United Methodist Church, and an explanation of the baptismal and membership vows they will be professing.

Because it is our desire for Confirmation to begin at an earlier age, this year our classes be **offered to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students**. Next year the classes will be offered to all 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and to all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students each year thereafter.

We are asking that both students and parents attend our first meeting on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 – 2:30 P.M. (lunch will be provided). Pastor Russ and Bill Weaver will explain this year's program and answer any questions that students and parents may have.

If your student is planning on attending Confirmation classes, please indicate your response on the communication cards on Sunday morning or contact the church office. As always, if you have questions feel free to contact Pastor Russ.

**Class dates: Starting on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> and running through Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Class times: Sundays -12:30 – 2:30 P.M. (lunch will be provided for every class)**

**Note: We will be holding a weekend retreat for the Confirmation class in May**



## J. O. Y. in Service

Thank you to our wonderful church family who donated over FIVE HUNDRED winter coats and clothing items for the Coat Drive held at Triumphant Christian Center on November 5. Also, our church family responded by donating dozens of cookies, making the Sloppy Joes, sorting and bagging the items, and transferring and setting up the night before. We had ten volunteers who attended the event including our Parish Nurse who did blood pressure checks and passed out health literature information. The volunteers helped to pass out the clothing, served the lunch and many prayed with those in need. As BK, the coordinator from Triumphant, stated in his initial instructions before we got started, "we don't want to be too structured so as not to get in the way of the Holy Spirit." We were there to show Christ's love and be a blessing but in turn, we were the ones who were blessed in so many ways.

We are looking forward to partnering with Triumphant in other projects as God leads us and we know our LUM family will respond.

If you would like to be a part of the next project or have ideas for a project please contact Jeremy Ehrenborg or Emily Miller.

LITHOPOLIS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM and Wednesday - Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
PASTORAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Russ Tichenor	Pastor	<a href="mailto:PastorRuss@lithopolisumc.org">PastorRuss@lithopolisumc.org</a>
Carl Spencer	Administrative Lay Pastor	<a href="mailto:Carl@lithopolisumc.org">Carl@lithopolisumc.org</a>
Bill Weaver	Director of Youth Ministries	<a href="mailto:Bill@lithopolisumc.org">Bill@lithopolisumc.org</a>
Kelly Abbott	Director of Children and Family Ministries	<a href="mailto:Kelly@lithopolisumc.org">Kelly@lithopolisumc.org</a>
Bob Tennant	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:BobT@lithopolisumc.org">BobT@lithopolisumc.org</a>
Jenny Davis	Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:Jenny@lithopolisumc.org">Jenny@lithopolisumc.org</a>
Terri Colbert	Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:Terri@lithopolisumc.org">Terri@lithopolisumc.org</a>

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